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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,146	01/14/2002	Huver Hu	31861	4232
7590	05/18/2006		EXAMINER	
			BRINICH, STEPHEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/047,146	HU, HUVER	
	Examiner Stephen M. Brinich	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11, 15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 9, 10, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6-8 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of claims 1-11 & 15-16 in the reply filed on 3/21/06 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Examiner notes that Applicant has cancelled all non-elected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "the first spot cell" in claim 11, line 5 lacks proper antecedent basis.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5, 9-10, & 15-16 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ostromoukhov et al (US 6198545).

Re claims 1 & 15, Ostromoukhov et al discloses (Abstract; column 16, lines 7-36; Figures 10-11) a method of printing a secure document on a substrate in which a digitized design is used to generate custom halftone spot cells corresponding to halftone dots for a range of pixel illumination values ranging from lightest (white) to darkest (black) values.

Re claims 2-5, Ostromoukhov et al discloses (Figures 2 & 10-12) that gray scale values of an original image are rendered using custom halftone spot cells corresponding to their pixel ranking values (increasing with the darkness of the original gray scale value).

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Re claims 9 & 16, Ostromoukhov et al discloses (column 16, line 25) that the custom halftone spot cells are predetermined and fixed (and thus must inherently be saved until use).

Re claim 10, Ostromoukhov et al discloses (column 16, lines 7-36; Figures 10-12) spot cells based upon graphical elements including arcs and text.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claim 11, insofar as it is understood, would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Re claims 6-7, Ostromoukhov et al does not disclose the recited assignments of illumination rankings to imported dark bi-level pixels on the basis of distance from a growth center in conjunction with the recited custom halftone spot cells based on a digitized design.

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Re claim 8, Ostromoukhov et al does not disclose the recited scaling of pixel ranking values in conjunction with the recited custom halftone spot cells based on a digitized design.

Re claim 11, Ostromoukhov et al does not disclose the recited second digitized design and use of the recited custom halftone spot cells based on a first digitized design in a first density range, custom halftone spot cells based on first and second digitized designs in a second density range, and custom halftone spot cells based on a second digitized design in a third density range.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Inoue and Fujimura et al disclose additional examples of custom shaped halftone cells.

10. Any inquiry concerning the contents of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 571-272-7430.

Any inquiry relating to the status of this application or proceeding or any inquiry of a general nature concerning application processing should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 Customer Service center at 571-272-2600 or to the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357.

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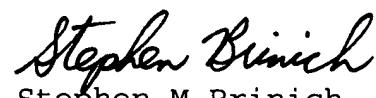
The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 7:00-4:30,
alternate Fridays off.

The examiner's unit designation has been changed from "Art
Unit 2624" to "Technology Division 2625" (as of March 20, 2006).

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer
Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be
contacted at 571-272-7437.

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to
the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 571-273-8300
(as of July 15, 2005).

Hand-carried correspondence may be delivered to the
Customer Service Window, located at the Randolph Building, 401
Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.


Stephen M. Brinich
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

smb
May 15, 2006